

Serial No.: 09/405,046
Filed: 27 September 1999

Please delete blank page 36.

On page 22, line 25, following blocking, please delete "moieity" and replace with "moiety".

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 6 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the following claims:

B1 Sub C2 16. (Amended) An MRI agent according to claim 12[, 13 or 14] wherein R_{26} comprises -
(CH₂)CO-.

Please add the following new claims:

B2 --20. An MRI agent according to claim 12 wherein R_{26} comprises -(CO(CH₂)_n)-.
B2

21. An MRI agent according to claim 12 wherein R_{26} comprises p-aminobenzyl.

22. An MRI agent according to claim 12 wherein said peptide inhibits a protease.

Sub D3 23. An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said protease is selected from the group consisting of caspase, interleukin 1 beta-converting enzyme, cysteine protease, serine protease, calpain, cathepsin and metalloproteinase.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. The Examiner has withdrawn Claims 2-5, 8-11, 13-15, 18 and 19 from consideration because they are drawn to a non-elected invention/species. Claims 1, 6 and 7 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 12, 16, 17 and new Claims 20-23 are pending. Support for new Claims 20 and 21 is found on page 28, line 18 through page 29, line 18. Support for new Claims 22-23 is found at page 22, lines 135-26. An appendix of pending claims is attached for the Examiner's convenience.